United Nations A/63/918–S/2009/341

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
7 July 2009

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 45
Culture of peace

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Letter dated 6 July 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Appeal of the Participants of the Third Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, adopted on 2 July 2009 in Astana.

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rustem **Sagindikov**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 6 July 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Russian]

Appeal of the participants of the Third Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions

We, the participants of the Third Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions,

1. Acknowledging the pressing relevance of humanity's problems, including those in the economic and related sectors as identified during the Congress and realizing our responsibilities to everyone in society;

2. Noting the increasingly important role of religion and highlighting the need for interreligious understanding and cooperation in today's world;

3. Confirming the commitment of people of faith to moral values and to the promotion of mutual respect and harmony;

4. Emphasizing our commitment to the protection and development of our respective cultural and spiritual heritage;

5. Stating unambiguously our opposition to ethnic and religious enmity and hatred while affirming that peaceful coexistence of people of different ethnic origins and religious affiliations is an important basis for human security;

6. Underscoring the important contribution of shared moral values in preventing and resolving interreligious and interconfessional tensions and conflicts;

7. Expressing confidence that interreligious dialogue helps to prevent stereotyping, prejudices and religious conflicts, serving as a tool for reducing tensions and promoting the peaceful settlement of conflicts;

8. Proceeding from the conviction that opposing new threats to societal and global stability requires cooperation of nations, ethnic communities and religions in the field of spiritual and moral education, culture, and the promotion of peace and international security;

9. Reiterating the need to protect the dignity of human beings and their fundamental rights, in particular those of freedom of conscience and of religion;

10. Repudiating the manipulation of religions for the justification and support of militant nationalism and chauvinism;

11. Condemning all forms of extremism and terrorism, especially those perpetrated in the name of religion;

12. Realizing that through joint efforts humanity will be able to reach a better level of mutual understanding and cooperation, enabling a better human coexistence at the local and international levels;

13. Recognizing the contribution of the First and Second Congresses to the promotion of interreligious dialogue, mutual understanding and peaceful cooperation, and appreciating the work of the Secretariat.

We call on religious and political leaders, public figures, scientists, the mass media, and the global community to:

1. Continuously support and facilitate the efforts of religious leaders and organizations towards genuine interreligious dialogue, and to address the urgent problems of humanity so as to find proper solutions, thereby recognizing the positive role that religions can and should play in society;

2. Promote comprehension of the specific character of each religion and culture and support dialogue among religions and civilizations in order to enhance mutual understanding and respect through education;

3. Counteract the manipulation of religions or religious differences for political ends so as to preserve the unity of the society in the respect for legitimate diversity;

4. Deepen mutual understanding by means of cultural exchanges and cooperation in the field of education, always protecting the right of religious freedom and its effective implementation;

5. Demonstrate greater moral and spiritual strength and genuine solidarity in pursuing just solutions to the economic, financial, social and environmental problems plaguing the globalized world.

We, the participants of the Congress, express gratitude to His Excellency President Nursultan Nazarbayev and the people of the Republic of Kazakhstan for their efforts to promote a culture of concord and cooperation among peoples of different ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds within Kazakhstan and beyond.

We wish every human being peace, security and prosperity.